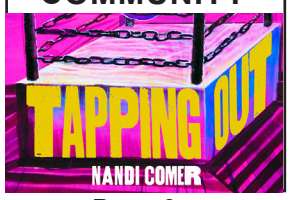
COMMUNITY



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Michigan's Poet Laureate Nandi Comer

EL CENTRAL HISPANIC NEWS

Michigan's #1, Oldest, Largest and Only Bilingual Hispanic News • Free! ¡Gratis! • Vol. 36, #34 • **June 26, 2025**

SPORTS

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DCFC Mens Defeat Miami FC

"Equipando Padres" Empodera a Familias Hispanas con Herramientas para el Éxito Universitario

El sábado 14 de junio, familias hispanas se reunieron en *La Casa Guadalupana*, en el southwest de Detroit, para participar en *Equipando Padres*, un taller gratuito ofrecido completamente en español y organizado por SHPE Detroit (Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers). El objetivo de este taller es brindar a los padres de estudiantes de primera generación las herramientas necesarias para apoyar a sus hijos en el camino hacia la universidad—especialmente en carreras de ciencia, tecnología, ingeniería y matemáticas (STEM por sus siglas en inglés para Science, Technology, Engineering y Matematics).

Durante el evento, las ingenieras Maridy Mazaira y Raquel Estrada ofrecieron sesiones sobre *¿Por qué ir a la universidad?, Aplicando a universidad, y Cómo pagar la universidad*. Además, el evento contó con un Panel de Ingenieros Latinos, donde voluntarios que trabajan en diversas compañías de Metro Detroit (como Ford, General Motors, General Dynamics Land

Continúa en la pág 2

One of the workshops at Equipando Padres. / Uno de los talleres de Equipando Padres, Junio 2025 Photo by/Foto de Alejandro Ugalde | Kopalli Media

"Equipando Padres" Empowers Hispanic Families with Tools for College Success

On Saturday, June 14, Hispanic families gathered at *La Casa Guadalupana* in Southwest Detroit for *Equipando Padres*, a free workshop hosted by SHPE Detroit (Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers). The event aimed to support parents of first-generation college-bound students by equipping them with the knowledge and tools to guide their children toward higher education—particularly in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) careers.

The workshop, offered entirely in Spanish by Raquel Estrada & Maridy Mazaira, featured sessions on *Why College, Applying to College, and Paying for College*. A standout moment was the *Panel of Latino Engineers* from Ford, General Motors, General Dynamics Land Systems, and Accenture, who shared their personal experiences navigating college and careers.

While parents attended the workshops, students participated in the STEM Activity Room, where they received a dynamic

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Michigan Legislative Latino Caucus Honors Legislative Latino Advocacy Day

LANSING, Mich. — On Tuesday, June 10, the Michigan Legislative Latino Caucus (MLLC), chaired by Sen. Mary Cavanagh (D-Redford Twp.), welcomed engaged advocates from across the state to the Capitol in recognition of Legislative Latino Advocacy Day. This serves as a platform for Latino Michiganders to lift their voices and lived experiences to lawmakers, empowering the community to advocate for the issues that matter most to them.

"As Chair of the Michigan Latino Caucus, I'm deeply grateful for the voices of the Latino community who joined us here this week," said Sen. Cavanagh. "Your voices, stories, and leadership are vital to shaping policies that reflect the strength, diversity, and contributions of Latino communities across our state. I will always fight like hell to ensure the voices of this community are not missing from the spaces where important decisions are made."

"The Latino community is a driving force in Michigan's economic growth — from small business ownership to contributions in key industries like agriculture, manufacturing, and healthcare. Our entrepreneurial spirit and hard work not only strengthen local economies but also enrich the cultural and civic life of our state," said Sen. Darrin Camilleri (D-Trenton), Vice Chair of the MLLC. "I'm glad so many members of the community joined us here yesterday, and I'll continue to work hard to ensure we offer support to our Latino neighbors so they can thrive here in Michigan."

"It was an honor to welcome members of the Latino community to the Capitol for advocacy day," said state Rep. Veronica Paiz (D-Harper Woods), Secretary and Treasurer of the MLLC. "Your presence and engagement send a powerful message about the importance of inclusive policymaking. Thank you for taking the time to advocate, share your experiences, and help build a stronger future for all Michiganders. We are stronger together."

The MLLC is a bicameral caucus of legislators dedicated to advancing legislative priorities that reflect the betterment of Michigan's Latino community.

MICHIGAN Latino Legislative Caucus

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EL CENTRAL HISPANIC NEWS

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Equipando Padres” Empodera a Familias Hispanas

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Systems, Accenture) compartieron sus experiencias y consejos personales para acceder a carreras en ingeniería.

Mientras los padres asistían a los talleres, los hijos de los asistentes participaron en la Sala de Actividades STEM, donde recibieron una presentación interactiva sobre “¿Qué es la ingeniería?”, seguida de una demostración práctica de codificación guiada por el ingeniero Jordan Mazaira y voluntarios de SHPE. Fue una experiencia divertida y educativa que despertó el interés de los estudiantes por la tecnología.

Uno de los momentos más emotivos fue el discurso del **Congresista Shri Thanedar**, quien compartió su historia como inmigrante y destacó el papel fundamental de su madre en su éxito académico, ya que ella siempre le decía que “la educación es algo que nadie podrá quitarte”. El congresista reflexionó sobre cómo la fortaleza y el sacrificio de ella reflejan los valores de muchas madres hispanas—madres que trabajan incansablemente para que sus hijos puedan soñar en grande. Sus palabras conmovieron al público, recordándoles que sí pertenecen, que sus sueños importan y que sus voces y talentos son necesarios en este país.

Después del evento, el congresista expresó:

“SHPE está haciendo un trabajo increíble empoderando a la próxima generación de ingenieros, líderes e innovadores en campos STEM. Con tanto talento y dedicación, el futuro de nuestra comunidad está en buenas manos.”

Las familias se retiraron con una nueva sensación de claridad y motivación. Una madre asistente comentó: “Estoy muy agradecida de haber asistido a este taller completamente en español, porque esta información me ayudará a guiar a mi hijo en su aplicación a la universidad.”

Todas las familias recibieron mochilas, el manual del taller y actividades de STEM para llevar a casa. Además de recursos e información para becas.

La presidenta de SHPE Detroit, **Maridy Mazaira**, concluyó:

“Así es como construimos comunidad: creando espacios donde las familias se sientan empoderadas, informadas y apoyadas.”

Muchas gracias a los voluntarios de SHPE Detroit (Maricruz Zamora, Erik Blancas, Liliana Blancas, Juan Alvarado, Arturo Ordaz, Carol Diaz Servin, Beatriz Lara, Rodolfo Rodriguez, Carlos Villagrán, and Catalina Sánchez-Maes); al moderador del panel, Andrés Ospina de CreateValue, y a Kevin Towns, de la oficina de ayuda financiera de la Universidad de Michigan Dearborn.

El evento fue posible gracias al apoyo de La Casa Guadalupana, City of Detroit NOF-ARPA, y aliados locales como Café Clark y Elizabeth Madrid de “Hombro a hombro Michigan Experience” (youtube channel).

El congresista Shri Thanedar con los padres participantes. / Senator Shri Thanedar with parents. Photo by/Foto de Alejandro Ugalde | Kopalli Media

“Equipando Padres” Empowers Hispanic Families

Continued from page 1

presentation on “What is Engineering?” and participated in a hands-on coding demonstration led by Jordan Mazaira and SHPE volunteers. The activities sparked creativity, curiosity, and excitement about the world of technology.

One of the most memorable parts of the event was a powerful speech delivered by **Congressman Shri Thanedar**. He spoke about his personal journey as an immigrant and credited his mother as the pillar of his educational success. “Your education is something no one can ever take away from you,” she used to tell him. He reflected on how her strength and sacrifice mirrored the values held by many Hispanic mothers—mothers who work tirelessly so their children can dream bigger. His words deeply resonated with attendees, reminding the community that they belong, that their dreams matter, and that their voices and talents are needed in this country.

After the event, Congressman Thanedar shared,

“SHPE is doing incredible work empowering the next generation of engineers, leaders, and innovators in STEM fields. With such talent and dedication, the future of our community is in great hands.”

Parents left the event feeling informed, motivated, and supported. One mother expressed, “We’re so grateful to finally learn this information in Spanish. Because now I feel confident about helping my child go to college.”

Each family received free backpacks and a set of 5 hands-on STEM activities to do at home. Post the workshop they also received a lot of resources and information for scholarships.

As SHPE Detroit President **Maridy Mazaira** shared,

“This is how we build community—by creating spaces where families feel empowered, informed, and supported.”

Heartfelt thanks to SHPE Detroit volunteers Maricruz Zamora, Erik Blancas, Liliana Blancas, Juan Alvarado, Arturo Ordaz, Carol Diaz Servin, Beatriz Lara, Rodolfo Rodriguez, Carlos Villagrán, and Catalina Sánchez-Maes. Special appreciation to panel moderator Andrés Ospina from CreateValue, and Kevin Towns from the University of Michigan-Dearborn Financial Aid Office.

The event was made possible by support from La Casa Guadalupana, City of Detroit NOF-ARPA grant, and local partners including Café Clark, and Elizabeth Madrid “Hombro a hombro Michigan Experience” (youtube channel).

Adelita Award Recipients
Cindy Gamboa
Linette Garza
Sandra Valle-Holdwick

Amigo Award Recipient
Jesse Gonzales, Sr.

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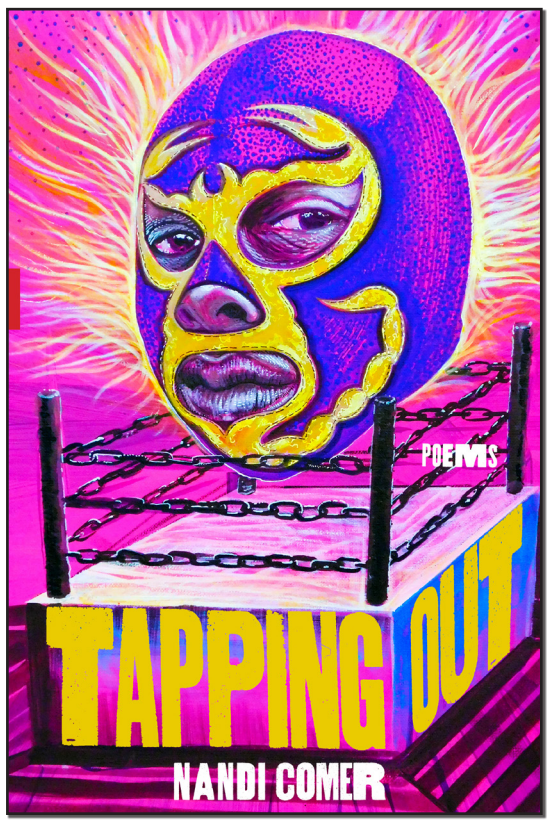
Michigan's Poet Laureate Nandi Comer

Finding Life's Lessons in Lucha Libre

By William Bowles

One evening a number of years ago, Nandi Comer, Michigan's future Michigan poet laureate (2003-2005), joined a friend at a lucha libre wrestling match in Guadalajara, Mexico. Comer, who had begun learning Spanish as a child and counts Southwest Detroit as "fundamental" to her development as a writer, educator, and activist, had dived into a two-year excursion of studying, teaching, writing, and translating in Mexico's second-largest city. Comer was doubtful that she would be interested in this outsized, exaggerated expression of Mexican culture. But, to her astonishment, she was transfixed. As Comer witnessed muscular, colorful, masked opponents throw themselves at each other in remarkable acts of choreographed violence that loosed volleys of passionate cheering and calling from every part of the arena, she realized that lucha libre was a window into Mexican society spanning class, race, and gender.

She returned again and again to the ring and eventually wrote a book of poems organized around the theme of lucha libre,



Tapping Out, named after the act of a wrestler tapping the canvas with his or her hand when submitting to defeat.

Although lucha libre fans will recognize legendary luchadores Mistico and El Terrible in a poem titled *¡Sangre! ¡Sangre!* *¡Sangre!* (Blood! Blood! Blood!), they will not have felt those fighters' pain, exhilaration, and sense of the physical struggle of teetering on the edge of victory, defeat, or survival with the intensity and vividness rendered by Comer in this poem. Her poems are like electrified sculptures: each sentence is layered with multiple meanings, rippling and writhing, sending the reader into a sort of vivid dream that surges with physicality and emotion. She found in lucha libre a framework for poetry about many of the complexities and contradictions and injustices of living life. Comer said one of the challenges of writing poetry is to "put words to the intangible." In Tapping Out she has succeeded. In "Losing Between Manholes and Myths," Comer tells of the nightmarish but real phenomenon of women of Guadalajara who have fallen into manholes in the violent rainy season, where "Fear streams of gutter water/rivering through the town. Flood rain takes girls with mud and waste."

In addition to her award-winning writing, Comer has served in many different education organizations, including as a writer-in-residence in Detroit Public Schools with InsideOut Literary Arts. She has touched the lives of hundreds of students by showing them how to tap their unique creative voices. Comer earned a B.A. in English and in Spanish with an emphasis on Latin American Culture from the University of Michigan, and in 2016 she completed an M.A. in African American Literature from the Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies and an M.F.A. in Poetry from the English Department at Indiana University.

Comer's laureateship allowed her to promote poetry throughout the state, including in the upper peninsula, by holding readings and workshops at schools, libraries, and community centers with local poets who shared their writing. As a culminating project, billboards were placed throughout the state featuring the work of Michigan poets.

To learn more about Nandi Comer's writing and projects, including a public television series and other videos, visit www.nandicomer.com.

William Bowles is an instructor at Wayne County Community College and Wayne State University. He was a teacher and librarian at Western International High School for 25 years.

City of Detroit Launches Cooling Centers to Protect Residents from Extreme Heat

With temperatures forecasted to reach the mid to upper 90s from Saturday through Tuesday, the Detroit Health Department is partnering with Detroit Recreation Centers to provide residents a safe space to cool down during regular hours of operation. To offer additional relief from the heat, **Patton Recreation Center** at 2301 Woodmere Street will have extended hours and will be open Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Two local Detroit Recreation Centers will remain open during normal operating hours: **Clemente** (2631 Bagley, Detroit MI 48216)—Monday-Friday 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. and **Kemeny** (2260 Fort St., Detroit, MI 48217)—Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Detroit Public Library locations will also serve as centers during their normal operating hours for residents seeking relief. Details about hours of operation at individual library branches can be found at detroitpubliclibrary.org/locations.

"We want all our residents to stay safe by using the cooling centers as a place of relief from the extreme heat," said Chief Public Health Officer, Denise Fair Razo. "It is important to take extra precautions, and please check in on your loved ones, neighbors, and pets throughout this heatwave."

During times of extremely high temperatures, the Detroit Health Department recommends everyone drink more water, limit time spent outside during the hours of 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. and be on the lookout for signs of heat exhaustion and heat stroke, such as nausea, confusion, rapid or slowed heart rate. For further tips, visit our website at detroitmi.gov/health.

For additional safety tips, visit detroitmi.gov/DHSEM and search "severe weather." For additional information about symptoms of heat-related illness, including when to seek medical help, can be found on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website: cdc.gov

City launches Cooling Centers to protect residents from extreme heat
HEAT ADVISORY
CITY OF DETROIT
For a list of locations visit:
detroitmi.gov/news/city-detroit-launches-cooling-centers-protect-residents-extreme-heat

Looking for Books in Spanish? Check Out your Local Public Library!

Nestled in a sunny corner filled with bright posters, a cozy couch, and a 13-foot-tall papier-mâché giraffe named Mina, the Ecorse Public Library offers a wonderful selection of Spanish-language books for all ages. From children's picture books to novels, nonfiction, and bilingual editions, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

Many libraries in the area, including all branches of the Detroit Public Library, also have Spanish-language books available for checkout. Books can be borrowed for up to 21 days, free of charge for library card holders. To obtain your free library card, simply bring proof of residency to your local public library. Most library cards can be used at nearby libraries, but you'll need to register at your home library first.

If you're searching for a book that your library doesn't own, don't worry-library staff may be able to request it for you through interlibrary loan, free of charge! Area libraries also circulate non-book items such as WiFi hotspots, picnic canopies, and board games. Area libraries also offer access to the Libby app which includes hundreds of Spanish language books, magazines, and read alongs!

Libraries also offer exciting monthly programs for all ages, completely free. Join us for storytimes, movie nights, puzzle competitions, computer classes, and more.

During the summer, libraries host free Summer Reading Programs designed to keep children engaged in reading while school is out. Kids select books, track their progress using a library-provided log, and earn fun prizes along the way. This year's theme is "Colorea Nuestro Mundo."

Visit your local library today and explore all the fantastic books and programs available to you!

Schools at Epicenter of Trump's Deportation Campaign Brace for Uncertain Summer

By Kalyn Belsha, Chalkbeat • This story was originally published by Chalkbeat. Sign up for their newsletters at ckbe.at/newsletters

When immigration agents raided a fast-fashion warehouse a mile from Santee Education Complex in Los Angeles earlier this month, the tension in the school was palpable.

That did not let up after a student learned his father and grandfather had been detained in that day's raids. Staff consoled the student as he waited to be picked up, making sure his family knew about resources that could be helpful to them.

As the 1,600-student school readied for graduation day, principal Violeta Ruiz responded to worried messages from her students over Instagram and recorded voice messages assuring families it was safe to attend the upcoming ceremony.

And when summer programming started Tuesday, Ruiz made sure students saw her familiar face as they arrived, even though she's technically not on the summer school staff.

"I made sure to be out because the kids all know who I am," Ruiz said. "Some of them were a little uneasy, but as soon as they entered our gates, they were ready to go."

Ruiz's experience illustrates what schools at the epicenter of President Donald Trump's mass deportation campaign have had to do to counteract the fear rippling through their communities. Schools like Santee, where 1 in 5 students are English learners, are spending time and money to keep kids in school and tend to families in crisis. Los Angeles Unified added 100 summer school sites after the raids to cut down on the amount of time children and parents spend in transit, where they might cross paths with an immigration agent.

The stakes are high: Recent research from Stanford University found that immigration raids in California have contributed to an already alarming absenteeism crisis.

What's playing out in L.A. also underscores why it's so important for school leaders across the country to stay in contact with families this summer, said Alejandra

Some districts are adding summer school sites to cut down on the amount of time children and parents spend in transit, where they might cross paths with an immigration agent.

Vázquez Baur, director of the National Newcomer Network, a coalition that works to support new immigrant students.

Many school communities are feeling the effects of heightened immigration enforcement, she noted, from Charlotte, North Carolina, where a parent was detained not far from the school dropoff line, to New York City, where a high schooler was detained at a routine immigration hearing.

"It is especially important now for school leaders to step up and speak out on this issue, communicate with families, and share what they are doing differently to ensure that schools are being protected in the next week and beyond,"

Some districts offer transportation to children whose family requested it to cut down on the time parents spend in transit.

Vázquez Baur said. "These are the experiences that will impact the attitudes of families as they consider whether they will return in the fall."

The worst-case scenario, she said, would be if parents took stock of the situation this summer and decided: "It is too risky for us to send you back."

Why summer is key time to connect with immigrant families

On the first day of Trump's presidency, federal officials revoked a longstanding policy that treated schools, churches, hospitals, and other places that provide critical services as "sensitive" locations where immigration enforcement was limited. Since then, there haven't been raids on schools, but enforcement carried out nearby has left many school communities shaken.

In L.A. for example, the recent raids began as Los Angeles Unified was preparing to host hundreds of graduation and moving-up ceremonies for students. The district stationed extra school police outside some events and scrambled to set up Zoom feeds for families too afraid to attend. Some parents whose children were the first in their family to graduate from high school didn't get to witness that milestone in person.

At a press conference held Tuesday at Santee, Los Angeles Unified Superintendent Alberto Carvalho said he hoped the additional summer school offerings would show immigrant families that the district is committed to supporting them.

In addition to expanding summer school sites from 220 to 320, Carvalho said the district would offer transportation to any child whose family requested it, again to cut down on the time parents spend in transit. Kids too afraid to attend in person would also be given the option of virtual summer school.

"We will allocate the resources to do everything we can to stabilize and normalize your condition, despite the challenges that you're facing," Carvalho said.

It is not yet clear how much the summer school expansion will cost, Carvalho said. That will depend on how many students show up at the new sites and how many additional staffers are needed. The district's summer school operation was already a sprawling endeavor with some 90,000 students enrolled in traditional academic-focused programs, and another 40,000 involved in

Extra-curricular activities are often included in summer school programs.

enrichment activities, such as math or swim camp.

"This is an action without precedent in this school district, but it is again, the right investment at the right time for absolutely the right kids," Carvalho said.

While it's important for schools not to over-promise what safeguards they can provide, Vázquez Baur said, schools can make clear to families this summer what their policies are if an immigration agent shows up on school grounds, and what resources they can offer if a student or family member is detained off campus.

School principals can ensure that new hires get the proper training on how to interact with federal immigration officials, and invite trusted community organizations to attend summer events to put families at ease. Schools can also review and update their protocols, especially if they notice new immigration enforcement tactics over the summer.

Above all, she said, it's important for schools to maintain regular communication with families. If there was a weekly email during the school year, keep that up, Vázquez Baur said. And if immigration enforcement is affecting the broader school community over the summer, it's important to acknowledge that, too.

"This is not a break from the school year communication," she said. "When families don't know, there's even more fear."

For Ruiz, Santee's principal, keeping students and families in the loop has been a key way to maintain trust.

In February, for example, when immigration agents first swept through Los Angeles, some of Ruiz's high schoolers started walking out of school in protest.

After talking it over with students and staff, the school decided to host an assembly to give students a safe emotional outlet. Teens put on skits about what they'd do if they were stopped by an agent and how to support one another if someone they loved got detained. They taught each other to be allies, and how to defend themselves, Ruiz said.

In the weeks that followed, Ruiz met with parents to make sure they understood what the school would do if immigration enforcement happened near campus. Students got "red cards" listing their constitutional rights. Some teachers hung butterflies on their classroom doors made by the school's MEChA student group to show support for undocumented students.

And after a few staffers made butterfly T-shirts to wear at school, lots of staff and students started showing up in their own butterfly attire.

To Ruiz, it was an unspoken but unmistakable way to tell students: We are here for you.

Kalyn Belsha is a senior national education reporter based in Chicago. Contact her at kbelsha@chalkbeat.org.
Chalkbeat (chalkbeat.org) is a nonprofit news organization covering public education.

Una conversación comunitaria

Con su Representante Mexicano

Domingo, 6 de julio de 2025 • 3:00 a 5:00 p.m.

Los diputados y senadores del partido Morena de México, residentes en Estados Unidos, desean reunirse con personas de todo el país para representar mejor a otros mexicanos que viven en el extranjero. No se trata de personas que llegaron recientemente, sino, que han estado aquí por generaciones. Es una excelente oportunidad para trabajar juntos en temas que afectan a los mexicanos a ambos lados de la frontera. Esta ponencia se dispondrá con una presentación y una conversación.

Si bien los senadores y diputados están particularmente interesados en reunirse con mexicanos y chicanos y conocer sus opiniones y necesidades, agradecen la oportunidad de conocer a todas las personas que apoyan a los migrantes mexicanos y de otros países que viven en Estados Unidos y que desean saber cómo solidarizarse con México.

Vámonos Café - 4444 Vernor Hwy, Detroit, Michigan, 48209
Presentado por el Proyecto de Solidaridad con México y Moratorium Now.

A Community Conversation

With Your Mexican Representative

Sunday July 6th 2025 • 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

The Congressional Deputies and Senators of Mexico's Morena party, who live in the U.S., are anxious to meet people all over the country, so they can better represent other Mexicans living abroad. That's not just recent migrants, but people who've been here for generations. It's a wonderful opportunity to work together on issues that affect Mexicanos/as on both sides of the border. This will be part presentation and part conversation.

While the senators and deputies are particularly interested in meeting Mexicanos/as and Chicanos/as and learning their views and needs, they welcome the opportunity to meet any and all people who support Mexican and other migrants living in the US, and who want to know how to stand in solidarity with Mexico.

Vámonos Café - 4444 Vernor Hwy, Detroit, Michigan, 48209
Brought to you by the Mexico Solidarity Project & Moratorium Now.

morena

Legacy Across Borders: Celebrating Immigrant Heritage and Entrepreneurial Spirit in Detroit

Written by Amber Ogden | Photo credit Devankar Mukhi

The smell of multicultural cuisine fills the air, and dozens of conversations flow in a mix of accents, languages, and hearty laughter. The occasion? “Immigrant Heritage Month: Legacy Across Borders” was a night dedicated to honoring the cultural richness and entrepreneurial impact of Detroit’s immigrant and first-generation business owners.

The event was hosted by TechTown on Monday, June 23, in celebration of Immigrant Heritage Month. It was more than just a networking mixer. It was a powerful tribute to the resilience, ingenuity, and legacy of those who have crossed borders to build new lives and businesses in the Motor City.

Across Metro Detroit, immigrants have long been an essential part of the region’s economic engine.

According to the New American Economy, immigrant entrepreneurs in Michigan generated over $459 million in business income in 2021, with a significant portion of that concentrated in Detroit and the surrounding counties of Wayne, Macomb, and Oakland.

In fact, while immigrants make up just 7% of Michigan’s population, they represent nearly 11% of the state’s entrepreneurs. In Detroit alone, foreign-born residents own thousands of small businesses, from family-run grocery stores and auto repair shops to tech firms and fashion brands.

And that economic impact extends far beyond revenue. These businesses often serve as cultural anchors, employment sources, and gathering places for the community.

The evening kicked off with a panel discussion featuring leaders from Bagzee, the Asian-Pacific American Chamber of Commerce, the American Arab Chamber of Commerce, the Global African Business Association, and the Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation. Panelists shared insights on the challenges and opportunities immigrant founders face, including language barriers, access to capital, and navigating complex legal systems.

Anita Zavala, Deputy Director of the Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation (DHDC), emphasized that no business can operate independently, especially given the government's "unwelcoming" attitudes toward immigrants.

"The communities that grow and thrive are thriving due to immigration."

"Southwest Detroit has some of the highest property values of any neighborhood corridor in Detroit," Zavala said.

Bilal Hammoud, executive director of the American Arab Chamber of Commerce, spoke to the shared experiences that often link Detroit’s immigrant communities. He noted that while each group brings its own culture and perspective, many face similar challenges when starting and sustaining businesses, including language barriers, access to capital, and navigating unfamiliar systems. These everyday struggles, he said, often lead to collaboration and support across communities, creating a strong network of shared resources and mutual encouragement that helps fuel innovation and economic growth.

"The policies matter. The advocacy matters, and the awareness matters. The talent is there, the opportunities are there," Hammoud said.

Rachael Woods, creator of ArtLoft, displays some of her art collection from Ghana.

Detroit Councilmember Gabriela Santiago-Romero, center, with program participants.

"We want to see and support the trajectory of immigrant businesses. It's no longer they've been in business for 20-25 years, but now they can grow exponentially in 5-10 years."

But the heart of the evening lay in what came next: the Heritage Story Circles. Unlike a typical pitch event, these small-group conversations were deeply personal. Each circle was led by a TechTown alum immigrant business owner who shared not just their entrepreneurial journey but the stories of how their cultural heritage shaped their path.

Among them was a Michigan native and a Middle Eastern woman who had gone through the Tech Town business boot camp almost ten years ago and opened a local retail store in Detroit. Dealing with the challenges of COVID-19, she has to close her business. However, today, she is hopeful about starting another business despite the current economic challenges.

Akindele Akinyemi is the founder of the Global African Business Association (GABA). He works with government systems and supports development in the community. He has helped secure over $3 million in state funding for important projects in Southeast Michigan. His efforts have led to significant investments in public infrastructure and education, including $1.8 million for a new public library in Inkster. He also helped open one of the first African and Caribbean food markets in Ann Arbor, near the border of Ypsilanti.

Akinyemi left the room with some sound advice: not to listen to the naysayers and follow your dreams.

"Follow your path, follow your dream, follow your ambition and be around people with like minds that want to help you," Akinyemi said.

"The path is not easy, but you will win in the end."

The event’s collaborative spirit reflects a growing movement in Detroit to better support immigrant entrepreneurs through tailored training, mentorship, and funding opportunities. Organizations like TechTown, Global Detroit, and the New Economy Initiative are increasingly collaborating to create pipelines for immigrant founders, recognizing their unique value and addressing the systemic barriers they face.

Rachapa Lau, Associate Executive Director of the Asian Pacific American Chamber of Commerce (APACC), highlighted her organization's commitment to making it easier for immigrant and minority-owned businesses to access resources and grow.

“We make any available resources easier to navigate toward businesses,” Lau said, noting that APACC also serves as a vital connector between entrepreneurs and potential customers.

“We provide a platform and opportunities for businesses to connect with people looking specifically for their products and services,” she added.

Recently, Mayor Duggan and the Detroit City Council announced a major initiative aimed at making it easier for small businesses to open and operate in the city. The plan focuses on streamlining outdated licensing requirements, upgrading the city’s permitting systems, and launching a new Business Concierge Team to guide entrepreneurs through the process.

The changes are expected to reduce red tape for all city-licensed businesses and completely eliminate unnecessary licensing for more than 20% of Detroit businesses without compromising health, safety, or sanitation standards.

Key reforms include removing duplicate licensing requirements, such as the current rule requiring restaurants to obtain licenses from both the Health Department and the Building Safety, Engineering & Environmental Department (BSEED). Additionally, business license renewals will shift from an annual to a biennial process.

By the end of the night, what lingered most wasn't just the aromas of food or the display of a Ghana-curated collection of art, including clothes and metals, by Rachael Woods, creator of ArtLoft. It was the sense of collective pride and shared purpose.

Amber Ogden is a freelance writer born and raised in Detroit. She has published work in Forbes, EATER Detroit, Visit Detroit, and the Michigan Chronicle. She enjoys art and loves to find new (and old) cool things in the city in her free time.

This article was made possible thanks to a generous grant to EL CENTRAL Hispanic News by Press Forward, the national movement to strengthen communities by reinvigorating local news. Learn more at www.pressforward.news.

(Left-Right) Akindele Akinyemi, Global African Business Association; Mario Tapia-Preza of TechTown; Dr. Theodore Jones of Global Detroit; Mayte Penman of TechTown; Rachapa Lau of Asian Pacific American Chamber of Commerce; Anita Zavala of Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation; and Bilal Hammoud of American Arab Chamber of Commerce

Participants enjoyed the rich diversity of ethnic foods.

Dr. Theodore Jones from Global Detroit served as the moderator for the program.

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MHCC's Tercer Jueves June Networking Event Draws Enthusiastic Turnout

By Patricia Nava

As a presenting sponsors, the Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (MHCC) and LaSalle Constructions hosted a highly successful networking event last Thursday, June 19th, at the Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters and Millwrights Training Center in Detroit. The event united industry professionals, partners, and clients in a dynamic and engaging environment.

Attendees actively participated in discussions, exchanged ideas, and forged new business relationships.

From start to finish, the atmosphere was vibrant, reflecting LaSalle's commitment to fostering collaboration and innovation within the construction and development sector, and reaffirming the commitment with the MHCC.

"We are huge supporters of the MHCC, and for many reasons, they offer so many opportunities (in) countless ways to the community. One of my favorite programs is called Adelante Michigan, where they provide small business owners with technical assistance and resources to Hispanic-owned businesses, as well as connections and opportunities for all. Being a woman-owned company, we have been giving similar help and making a big difference. We are big supporters of their mission because we truly believe in it," said Vinessa Palermo, CEO of LaSalle Construction Services. Palermo is also a member of the MHCC Board of Directors.

Key highlights included presentations from LaSalle Construction Services CEO Vannesa Palermo and Giovanni LaRosa, director of Project Management, showcasing LaSalle's ongoing projects and active support of the community.

Interactive activities encouraged open dialogue, allowing guests to share experiences and explore potential collaborations. The event also featured a dedicated networking lounge connecting like-minded professionals and decision-makers.

Learn more about the Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce at www.mhcc.org or by emailing Patricia Nava, the chamber's Business Development and Communications Director.

De la oficina del Tesorero del Condado de Wayne,
Eric R. Sabree

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Immigration crackdown's health effects: 'Like a roller coaster'

Story and photos by Isabelle Tavares for Planet Detroit | Republished with permission

A Venezuelan couple describes navigating life in Michigan in an uncertain environment for immigrants. The executive director of Ypsilanti's Corner Health Center says public health impact of immigration crackdown by Trump administration will be felt "for a generation."

Venezuelans Mar and Jose are navigating a changing legal landscape for immigrations while living in Michigan.

Mar, a 28-year-old from Venezuela, had a full life in her home country. She earned her degree in social communication and worked as a professional ballet dancer and actress. The living conditions were challenging, and she became one of the 58,000-plus Venezuelans who were approved entry into the U.S. in 2023.

Mar, who asked to shorten her name due to fear of jeopardizing her situation, came to Detroit "legally through the airport and everything," she said. She came via humanitarian parole, a discretionary authority by the secretary of Homeland Security that allows noncitizens to enter the U.S. temporarily for urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit.

In October 2022, the Biden administration announced the parole program for Venezuelans, and in January 2023, extended parole to Cubans, Haitians, and Nicaraguans to live and work in the U.S. for up to two years.

Thanks to family friends who sponsored her parole and welcomed her, Mar started a new life in Michigan. She began working in the service industry and quickly received her employment authorization and Social Security documents, she said.

The friend who welcomed her is Jose, 37, who asked to be identified by a different name for fear of jeopardizing his legal status. He and Mar are now married. He works as a researcher at a public university in Michigan under the H-1B visa, a type of temporary work visa for foreign workers in skilled, specialty occupations. Jose's visa expires at the end of 2027, he said.

In 2016, he left his home country of Venezuela for Argentina, gaining dual citizenship. After five years there, he uprooted again for Spain for a few months before settling in Michigan in 2022.

The temporary work visa initially lasts up to three years and can be extended up to another three years. About 60% or more of the H-1B visas issued since 2012 have been for computer-related jobs, according to the Pew Research Center. In April, some immigration lawyers reported receiving unusual requests, such as the need for biometrics, about clients applying for or renewing H-1B visas or other types of employment-related visas.

Since President Donald Trump's return to the White House in January, his administration has undertaken a multifaceted immigration crackdown that is widely contested in the courts.

Health care workers say the weight of uncertainty on immigrants is not just an immediate threat to their well-being, but sets the stage for generational harm and makes basic care harder to access. From missed prenatal appointments to untreated chronic stress, the health effects of immigration instability ripple far beyond paperwork and policy.

Mar worries about her status and avoids spending too much time on the streets, and Jose worries for her. The couple told Planet Detroit they hoped for safety and stability in the U.S., but instead have found a system that tests their mental health daily.

For Venezuelan couple, US a place to live, but not to rest

In Venezuela, Jose said that he would lose money by going to work, as earnings are low and the cost of transportation high. If he lived outside the city, rent would be cheaper, Jose said, adding there are no quality public services outside of the capital of Caracas. "It's a trade-off," he said.

If Mar worked in her field of communications or journalism at a good company in Venezuela, she said she could earn about $200 a month. When a trip to the grocery store costs her $80, and rent in the capital city could cost $300, "Venezuela is not an option," she said.

"It's hard to say that because we have our family there, but we are out of the country to help our family," Mar said.

The couple married earlier this year. The two are from the same area of Venezuela, and they connect on many levels, like food, culture, humor, and references.

Mar said she can save and spend money "in peace" in the U.S., paying bills, buying groceries, and even entertaining friends or going out to eat. In the U.S., people can buy a car in a few different ways via credit, or a payment plan, unlike in Venezuela, she said. She has health insurance under the Affordable Care Act and obtains free birth control.

Jose's experience in the U.S. has been "OK," he said. In his previous job at a university in Michigan, he experienced harassment, he said.

"The issue with the H-1B visa, you attach to a single job, that makes you more vulnerable to bad behavior from your boss," he said.

He has since found a different job and receives health insurance through another university. He's met a lot of good people, he said, and enjoys the economic stability, but said he doesn't like how car-dependent he is.

"Everything is far away," Jose said. "I used to just walk to the grocery store, butchery. Here you need a car for sure."

The health toll on immigrants

Mar said she tries to have a normal day. She wakes up, reads the news, spends most of her day at work, and comes home, she said. Her work is near her house, so she doesn't spend too much time on the street. Afraid of encountering ICE or police, she said she stays close to home, foregoing travel to nearby cities or states.

"I'm very scared to go out to the street because I don't know what happens," Mar said. "Every day, the news happens so fast."

When people ask where she's from, she said she doesn't answer, because she's afraid they might "call someone," she said.

"In social media you see all the videos," Mar said. "ICE don't care who you are. It's too much," she said, referring to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency.

Last month, a Detroit high school student faced deportation after being arrested by Border Patrol while on a field trip, according to the Detroit Free Press and he has since been deported to Colombia.

Mar and Jose are not sure if they will stay in the U.S. "or run away in a year," Mar said, possibly to another country in Europe or Latin America. They hope to stay in the country longer, she said. The constant strategizing is stressful, Mar said.

"It's hard to get asleep because we're thinking about all this stuff. You know, (you) make different scenarios," Mar said. "Stress (means) you can't sleep well, because your mind might play a lot."

Jose faces uncertainty with his job, as his work is funded through the National Institutes of Health. The Trump administration aims to cut the agency's $47 billion budget by $18 billion.

To distract themselves, the couple spends time with friends close to home watching movies or playing games, because "if we stick in the house, your mind play a lot of bad games," Mar said.

Changing immigration rules 'like a roller coaster'

For almost seven decades, the United States has employed humanitarian parole to offer refuge to individuals confronting humanitarian crises. This mechanism has historically provided support to Ukrainians escaping conflict, people fleeing violence in Latin America, and Afghans who assisted U.S. operations in Afghanistan.

On May 30, the Supreme Court allowed the Trump administration to revoke humanitarian parole status for over 500,000 people from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Venezuela, PBS reported.

This means individuals previously granted temporary legal status in 2023 under the Biden-era program may be at risk of deportation, unless they have secured protection from deportation through another legal status, such as a pending asylum application, according to Welcome.US, a nonprofit organization that mobilizes Americans to support newcomers.

"I'm scared because I can lose my employment authorization and my legal status," Mar said. "It's like a roller coaster."

Last month Mar applied for an adjustment of immigration status based on their marriage. She received confirmation of her application, but when the couple looked up Mar's case number, Jose said there was no indication her case was being processed.

"Physically, I'm fine. Other than being stigmatized as being a Venezuelan immigrant. I don't think I'm totally safe,"

Jose said. “If I need to go, I need to go. I’ve been moving around the world for a long time.”

Mar and Jose hold hands. “I’m scared because I can lose my employment authorization and my legal status,” she says.

Health care workers say impacts will last a generation

Alex Plum, executive director of the Corner Health Center, said “every single day is like a new terror.”

The center, located in Ypsilanti, provides a full range of health care, pregnancy care, mental health, and gender affirming care to 12-to-25-year-olds.

Plum said his office is seeing an “absolute reduction” in people coming in for care. He couldn’t pinpoint whether there’s been a reduction depending on patients’ legal status, as Corner Health does not ask for a patient’s immigration status, Plum said. Demand for Spanish language interpretation has decreased, he said.

On Jan. 21, the Trump administration rescinded a Biden-era policy that safeguarded places like churches, schools, and hospitals from immigration enforcement. The new directive grants ICE agents unrestricted authority to conduct enforcement actions in any of these spaces.

“Education, health care, child care, these things have got to be sacrosanct,” Plum said.

Plum said the “culture of fear” that is created when these sensitive locations are exposed drives the decrease in utilization of services, which leads to an unhealthier population, he said. The effects include people not seeing prenatal care, sexually transmitted diseases going untreated and continuing to spread in the community, or people missing vaccines and creating a public health impact, Plum said.

Plum described “the stress, the anxiety, the depression, the fear that young people are carrying and not able to seek or receive treatment for that.”

He added: “These are really dark times.”

Hannah Mesa, research project manager at the University of Michigan School of Public Health, manages community-based research projects focused on health disparities in maternal and infant health among the Latinx population, and is studying how immigration plays a role. She is also a community-based doula.

A 2019 study that Mesa co-authored found that fear of deportation and family separation has had an impact on the health care utilization and health-related behaviors of mixed status families.

The immigration process is something that families have navigated for for a long time, even before Trump first took office, and has been a source of stress, Mesa said.

Mesa said in some of the communities she works with, people are missing their prenatal appointments for fear of encountering ICE or police on the way. This increases the risk of birth complications for both the carrier and the child.

The public should also consider the health of all members in mixed-status families, she said.

For instance, if a child was born in the United States to parents who are in the country without permission, and the parents are the source of paying the bills, getting the groceries, working, and taking the child to school, but they’re afraid to drive, Mesa said the public should ask how this impacts a child’s health and the health of their parents.

The Corner Health Center’s Plum said youth who are in the country without permission; going through the immigration process; whose immigration status is in jeopardy; or who live at a home with mixed immigration status are isolated.

“There probably can be no more damaging thing to a person’s psyche, spiritual health, or social health, than that isolation,” Plum said.

As a result, there will be “generational harms” and “moral injury” to immigrants, U.S. citizens, and the health care sector, Plum said.

“We’re looking at it in microcosm of Ypsilanti, but what’s happening is happening nationwide,” Plum said. “This is going to be the harm that we’re going to feel for a generation.”

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Isabelle Tavares is a community reporter for Report for America. She covers environmental and public health impacts in Southwest Detroit for Planet Detroit. Working in text, film and audio, she is a Dominican-American storyteller who is concerned with identity, generational time, and ecology.

Detroit teen detained by ICE has been deported to Colombia, attorney says

By Lori Higgins, Chalkbeat • This story was originally published by Chalkbeat. Sign up for their newsletters at ckbe.at/newsletters

Maykol Bogoya-Duarte, the Detroit teen whose detention by federal immigration authorities last month caused an outcry and led to calls for his release, has been deported, his attorney said Friday morning.

Attorney Ruby Robinson said he learned late Thursday night from Maykol’s mother, in an 11:15 p.m. voicemail, that the teen was back in his home country of Colombia.

Robinson said he hadn’t yet spoken with Maykol, but hoped to do so later Friday. He said the teen is now with his grandmother in Colombia.

Chalkbeat reached out to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or ICE, to confirm the deportation, but did not get a response. His information is no longer available on ICE’s detainee locator.

Maykol, 18, was arrested on May 20 while he and a group of other newcomer boys attempted to join a field trip at Lake Erie Metropark, about 25 miles away from Detroit. Rockwood police stopped the teen for allegedly tailgating another car. Maykol did not have a driver’s license, only a City of Detroit identification card, Robinson has previously said.

His detention prompted advocacy from his teachers, fellow students, community members, and lawmakers who pleaded for Maykol to be allowed to remain in the country to finish high school. He was 3.5 credits shy of a high school diploma at Western International High School, where he was enrolled.

“I’m devastated,” said Kristen Schoettle, who taught Maykol at Western.

“The cruelty of this country really shakes me,” Schoettle said. “This kid, my bright student, was passed along to prisons for a month, scared and facing awful conditions I’m sure, for the crime of what — fleeing his country as a minor in search of a better life? And the US government decided his time was better spent in prison than finishing out the school year.”

Schoettle said she hopes to hear from Maykol today.

“I hope he’s safe with his grandma. I hope he can recover from this traumatizing experience and still will dream of a better life. I’ll miss him in my classroom next year and our city and our country are worse off without people like him,” she said.

Schoettle shared examples of Maykol’s classroom work with Chalkbeat, including what he wrote when asked earlier this year to write about freedom.

“I think the freedom in this moment is a little confusing since we can’t leave safely since we don’t know what can happen and it seems strange to me since we have to be more careful than usual,” he wrote in Spanish.

Thousands of people signed a petition earlier last week calling on the Detroit Public School Community District and lawmakers to condemn Maykol’s arrest.

Dozens of people spoke in support of the teen’s release for more than 2½ hours at the district’s school board meeting on June 10. Afterward, the board released a statement saying it wanted Maykol to be able to stay in the country to earn his diploma.

Maykol’s mother attended that school board meeting, though she didn’t speak. Robinson, senior managing attorney with the Michigan Immigrant Rights Center, said the organization isn’t representing Maykol’s mother.

“But I would suspect she will try to return to Colombia at her own expense based on what she learned with Maykol’s month-long, taxpayer-funded, and entirely unnecessary and harmful detention.”

During the May 20 traffic stop that led to his detention, police officers could not communicate with him in Spanish and called Customs and Border Protection agents to translate.

Maykol, who came to the U.S. when he was 16, had already been going through a legal process to return to Colombia after receiving a final order of deportation in 2024. He was working with immigration officials and the Colombian Consulate to obtain the documentation he needed to fly out of the country with his mother.

The attorney for Maykol Bogoya-Duarte, a senior at Western International High School who was detained by federal immigration authorities May 20, said Friday that he has been deported. (Courtesy of MIRC)

While he made those arrangements, Maykol planned to finish high school in Detroit.

Hannah Dellinger contributed to this report.Lori Higgins is the bureau chief for Chalkbeat Detroit. You can reach her at lhiggins@chalkbeat.org. Chalkbeat (chalkbeat.org) is a nonprofit news organization covering public education.

NOTE from Actionnetwork.org

We are collecting funds to go directly to Maykol and his family. You can donate to Maykol though The People’s Assembly’s CashApp at **$PEOPLESASSEMBLY.**

The People’s Assembly will be having our next meeting on July 13th at 2 pm at Grace in Action in SW Detroit. Please join us to protect our community and others like Maykol.

DCFC Mens Defeat Miami FC, 2 - 0

EL CENTRAL HISPANIC NEWS SPORTS

Sports Editor: Dan Graschuck/ EL CENTRAL

All photos by Adam J. Dewey

This past Saturday, during the start of the heat wave. DCFC Mens hosted Miami FC at Keyworth Stadium.

The men were looking for their first win in almost two months (last win was April 26th).

The men did that, defeating Miami FC, 2 - 0.

The DCFC Men, hosted Club Santo Laguna (Mexico), for an International Friendly, this past Wednesday, June 25th (Photos will come out for the July 3rd EL CENTRAL publication).

The men go on the road, this Saturday, June 28th to take on Hartford Athletic at 7:00 pm (CW Detroit 50), then travel to take on Oakland Roots SC, on Saturday, July 5th at 10:00 pm (CW Detroit 50), before returning to Keyworth on Saturday, July 12th, to host Hartford Athletic at 7:00 pm (CW Detroit 50).

Photos below are highlights from Saturdays game between DCFC mens and Miami FC

Devon Amoo-Mensah (#30) protects the ball on the defensive end

Carlos Herrera (#21) defends a shot on goal

Detroit City FC's Northern Guard fans light off smoke to celebrate Jeciel Cedeño's goal in the 44th minute

Jeciel Cedeño (#10) scores a goal in the 44th minute

Detroit City FC celebrates ending a two month long winless streak as head coach Danny Dichio speaks the the team after the game

Detroit City FC piles up in a huddle together to celebrate Ates Diouf (#32) extra time goal

At Long Last A Win

EL CENTRAL HISPANIC NEWS
Pateando la No. 5
SPORTS

David Levine
EL CENTRAL

There was audible relief at Keyworth Stadium last Saturday. DCFC's long winless run finally came to an end. Coach Danny Dichio has tried a different combination of players in every game since the last win in April. Maybe it was the right configuration, maybe the right opponent, or perhaps even the weather played its part, but this team needed a win in any way possible.

The weather certainly played a key part. It wasn't the heat, although the temperature rose above 90 degrees. The wind pushed DCFC forward during a torrid first half. With a powerful gale blowing from south to north, Le Rouge played with the wind from the start. They immediately pressed visiting Miami, rarely letting them out of their half of the field. Dichio must have been a little disappointed that his team only had one goal going into the halftime break.

DCFC created enough opportunities to be further ahead. They kept good possession and benefitted from the return of Abdoulaye Diop to the starting lineup for the first time in 2025. He and Ryan Williams dictated much of the rhythm of the game. They were able to find Jeciel Cedeno in good positions behind Miami's midfielders. However, it took a poor clearance to set up the first goal. A Miami defender tried to clear the ball high into the air. The wind held it up and dropped it at Cedeno's foot. He played a quick one-two with Darrin Smith and placed the ball in the side-netting to the right of former US international Bill Hamid. Cedeno's explosive run and finish set off the 6,004 fans in Keyworth in an explosion of relief, accompanied by the recently underused smoke bombs and colorful insults from the East Stand.

Cedeno could have doubled the lead early in the second half when set up by Connor Rutz, but the pass came to his weaker right foot and his shot went high and wide. Darrin Smith had his chance to extend the lead when Cedeno was fouled in the Miami penalty area, but his penalty went straight at Hamid's legs and bounced away. Substitute Ates Diouf finally sealed the win with the last kick of the game. He received a long pass and took his defender on parallel to the goal line. After beating two men, he put the ball around Hamid for the second goal. The team reacted even more emotionally to that goal, realizing that their long struggle had finally ended.

While the attack created plenty of chances, it was at the back where DCFC finally saw things hold together. Carlos Herrera returned to the goal and made a number of key saves. Two that he made with his feet during the second half preserved DCFC's slender one goal lead. Defender Shane Wiedt saved a shot off the goal line with his head when a Miami player clattered into Herrera and the referee inexplicably allowed play to continue.

Having finally picked up a win in the league, DCFC has two games this week. The first will be a friendly against Santos Laguna of Liga MX. Santos finished rock bottom of both the Apertura and Clausura in 2024-2025. This match will be part of their preseason preparations for the new season which starts the weekend of July 11. Santos opens at home against Pumas on the twelfth. On Saturday, DCFC will be on the road against Hartford Athletic in the Jagermeister League Cup. To have any hope of advancing, DCFC must with this game and then beat Westchester SC of USL League One at the end of July. Expect Dichio to rest a lot of regular players in midweek and give some playing time to players needing minutes.

USA MOVES ON TO THE QUARTERFINALS

DCFC wasn't the only team in desperate need of positive results. The US national team entered the CONCACAF Gold Cup with a four game losing streak. Included in those four games were some of the worst performances in recent times. For the Gold Cup, many of the USA's regular starters could not be selected. Some are busy with the FIFA Club World Cup. Others have injuries. A couple just decided they needed a vacation.

Coach Mauricio Pochettino had to come up with a solid spine for his team and then put a number of inexperienced, mostly MLS, players around it. His first move was to bench goalkeeper Matt Turner. The nominal starting goalkeeper only played four competitive games during the European season and looked shaky in his recent international appearances. Instead, New York City FC goalkeeper Matt Freese started the USA's three group matches and only had one glaring error, a poor clearance last Sunday that Haiti turned into the only goal the USA conceded in the group phase. The Americans finished with three wins from three games in one of the weakest possible groups.

The spine has become Freese in goal, central defenders Chris Richards and Tim Ream, defensive midfielder Tyler Adams, attacking midfielder Malik Tillman, and striker Patrick Agyemang. Richards in particular had a superb group phase, scoring the winner against Saudi Arabia and winning all his duels. Agyemang and Tillman have provided goals and had enough chances between them to double the five they did score. Winger Diego Luna and right back Alex Freeman have also done enough to earn starts in the elimination rounds.

On Sunday night, the USA will meet Costa Rica in Minneapolis. It will be a reunion with one of the USA's toughest opponents: goalkeeper Keylor Navas. The Costa Rican legend canceled his international retirement for the Gold Cup. The USA has only beaten him twice during his long career. Even if Costa Rica is a long ways from its best, they will give the Americans a much tougher game that any of their group phase opponents.

CONCACAF narrowly avoided having the USA and Mexico meet in a quarterfinal for the first time ever. Mexico could only draw with Costa Rica in their group A decider. Mexico's superior goal difference means they won the group and will meet guest team Saudi Arabia in Glendale, Arizona on Saturday night. The Mexicans have hardly been convincing. The barely held off the Dominican Republic and had a tough time with Suriname. Like the USA, they will have to lift their game. Canada, the third World Cup host, lead their group after routing Honduras 6-0, but drawing Curacao 1-1. Panama is the other top seed and has two wins from two games with a weak Jamaican team remaining to play in their final group game. This tournament will become more intense in the quarterfinals over the weekend.

DCFC Womens lose First Place to AFC Ann Arbor !!!

Photos by Adam J. Dewey

The DCFC Womens hosted AFC Ann Arbor, at Keyworth Stadium, this past Saturday.

DCFC Womens took the lead going into the half 1 - 0, but could not stop AFC Ann Arbor.

AFC Ann Arbor defeated the DCFC Womens 2 - 1.

With this loss, DCFC Womens have been dethroned by AFC Ann Arbor, who now take over first place in the Great Lakes Division.

The DCFC Womens are on the road for their final game of the season, Saturday, June 28th, taking on Kalamazoo FC at 7:00 pm

Photos below are hightlights from the DCFC Womens and AFC Ann Arbor

Kayla Addison (#9) takes a shot on goal

Sophia Morgan (#44) and Ella Karolak (#45) join Acadia Murphy (#66) on the pitch in celebration of her goal in the 35th minute

Hannah Crum (#15) maneuvers through the AFC Ann Arbor defense with the ball

Kayla Addison (#9) passes the ball towards goal

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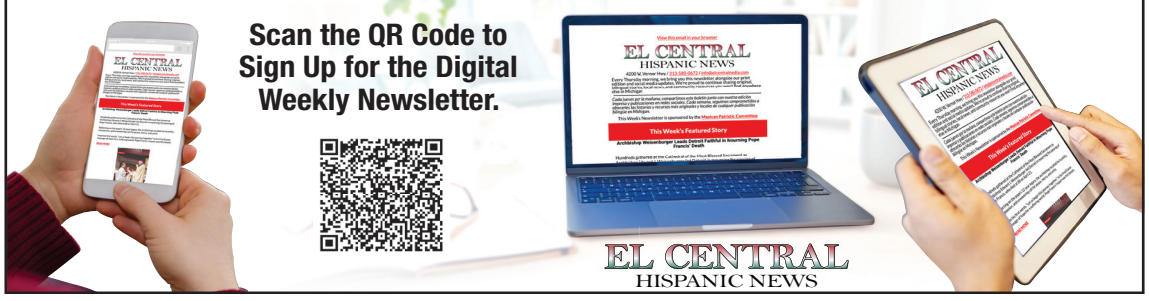

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EDITORIAL OPINION

Guest Opinion:

LULAC Denounces Fort Cavazos Renaming Back to Ft. Hood as a Disrespect to All Latinos in the Military

Nation's Oldest and Largest Latino Civil Rights Organization Decries Maneuver to Locate Soldier with Similar Surname as the Original Confederate Namesake

Washington, DC — The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) expresses profound disappointment and strong opposition to the U.S. Army's decision to redesignate Fort Cavazos as Fort Hood. This abrupt reversal erases the rightful recognition of General Richard E. Cavazos, a decorated war hero and the first Latino four-star general in U.S. history. It replaces the name with that of a lesser-known figure, Col. Robert B. Hood, from World War I.

General Cavazos, a native Texan and son of Mexican American farm workers earned two Silver Stars, the Distinguished Service Cross twice, two Legions of Merit, and five Bronze Stars (with valor) and a Purple Heart. In January 2025, he was awarded the U.S. Medal of Honor posthumously. His service spanned four decades, during which he rose to command III Armored Corps, the unit headquartered at the base that once proudly bore his name. The decision to name Fort Cavazos in his honor acknowledged Latino service members' patriotic sacrifice and valor.

"This is more than a name change. This reversal erases our place in history and is an insult to every Latino who has worn the uniform with honor," said Roman Palomares, LULAC National President and Chairman of the Board. "General Richard Cavazos wasn't just a hero for Latinos. He was a hero for America. Reversing the decision to name a base after him sends a dangerous message that our contributions can be discarded when politically inconvenient. We will not stand by quietly while that happens."

LULAC urges the Department of Defense and Army leadership to reverse this decision and reinstate the honor bestowed upon General Cavazos. At a time when America desperately needs unity, stripping a Latino hero of his rightful recognition only deepens division and fuels the perception that our patriotism is still being questioned.

"We had hoped that the era of divisive politics invading military tradition was over. General Cavazos earned his place in our nation's military history through blood, sacrifice, and leadership," said Lawrence "Larry" Romo, LULAC National Vice President for Veterans Affairs and a retired Air Force officer. "One day, I believe we will return to honoring service above politics and celebrate the military as the unifying force it must remain," he added.

Photo provided by www.army.mil

From the community at the heart of this decision, Analuisa Tapia, LULAC District Director in Killeen, Texas, voiced the reaction felt deeply by residents: "This redesignation is a thinly veiled attempt to mask the prejudice that still infects our systems. It is not about honoring Col. Hood. This name change is about dishonoring General Cavazos and the millions of Latinos who have served this nation. Our community sees this for what it is, and we are heartbroken and outraged."

"In every generation, Americans have answered the call to defend this country," concluded Palomares. "General Richard Cavazos represents the best of us: courage, character, and country above self. Let us not allow politics to undo our progress in honoring all who serve."

Opinions in this column are not necessarily those of the Publisher or Editor

Do you have a contrary opinion? Write us at info@elcentralmedia.com

Opinión de un Invitado:

LULAC denuncia que el cambio de nombre de Fort Cavazos a Fort Hood es una falta de respeto a todos los latinos en las fuerzas armadas

La organización latina de derechos civiles más grande y antigua del país denuncia maniobra para localizar a soldado con apellido similar al del homónimo confederado original

Washington, D.C. — La Liga de Ciudadanos Latinoamericanos Unidos (LULAC) expresa su profunda decepción y firme oposición a la decisión del Ejército de los Estados Unidos de redesignar Fort Cavazos como Fort Hood. Este abrupto cambio de postura anula el legítimo reconocimiento del General Richard E. Cavazos, héroe de guerra condecorado y el primer general latino de cuatro estrellas en la historia de Estados Unidos. Reemplaza el nombre por el de una figura menos conocida, el Coronel Robert B. Hood, de la Primera Guerra Mundial.

El General Cavazos, originario de Texas e hijo de trabajadores agrícolas mexicoamericanos, obtuvo dos Estrellas de Plata, la Cruz por Servicio Distinguido en dos ocasiones, dos Legiones al Mérito, cinco Estrellas de Bronce (al valor) y un Corazón Púrpura. En enero de 2025, recibió póstumamente la Medalla de Honor de los Estados Unidos. Su servicio duró cuatro décadas, durante las cuales ascendió al mando del III Cuerpo Blindado, la unidad con sede en la base que antaño llevó con orgullo su nombre. La decisión de nombrar Fort Cavazos en su honor reconoció el sacrificio patriótico y el valor de los militares latinos.

"Esto es más que un cambio de nombre. Esta revocación borra nuestro lugar en la historia y es un insulto a cada latino que ha portado el uniforme con honor", declaró Román Palomares, Presidente Nacional de LULAC y Presidente de la Junta Directiva. "El General Richard Cavazos no solo fue un héroe para los latinos. Fue un héroe para Estados Unidos. Revocar la decisión de nombrar una base en su honor envía el peligroso mensaje de que nuestras contribuciones pueden ser descartadas cuando resulte políticamente inconveniente. No nos quedaremos de brazos cruzados mientras eso sucede".

LULAC insta al Departamento de Defensa y a los líderes del Ejército a revocar esta decisión y restituir el honor otorgado al General Cavazos.

En un momento en que Estados Unidos necesita desesperadamente la unidad, despojar a un héroe latino de su legítimo reconocimiento solo profundiza la división y alimenta la percepción de que nuestro patriotismo sigue siendo cuestionado.

"Esperábamos que la era de la política divisiva que invadía la tradición militar hubiera terminado. El General Cavazos se ganó un lugar en la historia militar de nuestra nación con sangre, sacrificio y liderazgo", dijo Lawrence "Larry" Romo, Vicepresidente Nacional de Asuntos de Veteranos de LULAC y oficial retirado de la Fuerza Aérea. "Algún día, creo que volveremos a honrar el servicio por encima de la política y celebraremos a las fuerzas armadas como la fuerza unificadora que debe seguir siendo", añadió.

Desde la comunidad que está en el centro de esta decisión, Analuisa Tapia, Directora de Distrito de LULAC en Killeen, Texas, expresó la profunda reacción de los residentes: "Esta redesignación es un intento apenas disimulado de ocultar el prejuicio que aún infecta nuestros sistemas. No se trata de honrar al Coronel Hood. Este cambio de nombre deshonra al General Cavazos y a los millones de latinos que han servido a esta nación. Nuestra comunidad lo ve como lo que es, y estamos desconsolados e indignados".

"En cada generación, los estadounidenses han respondido al llamado de defender este país", concluyó Palomares. El general Richard Cavazos representa lo mejor de nosotros: coraje, carácter y la patria por encima de nosotros mismos. No permitamos que la política arruine nuestro progreso en honrar a todos los que sirven.

Las opiniones expresadas en esta columna no son necesariamente las del editor o redactor

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SPECIAL WORLD'S CULTURES

Paraguay

Guarani Myth About Of The Origin Of Earth

At the beginning of time, the Creator God, Ñamandu, was alone, having slowly created himself. There were no trees, no mountains, no people, nothing. In his solitude, Ñamandu began to create.

First, the language of men, words.

And then he wanted someone else to be able to speak, and he created other gods, four pairs of gods who in turn would have children who were also gods.

Then, he made the tip of the staff he always carried in his hand grow thicker and thicker. From there, little by little, the Earth emerged. So that the Earth wouldn't move, he created a palm tree. It was a palm tree that would last forever and was right in the middle of the Earth.

Then he created four more at each of the cardinal points. And so, with those five palm trees that would live forever, without ever drying up, the Earth remained firmly planted.

He supported the sky on four columns, four wooden poles identical to his staff.

It was then that he made the first animals and the first plants.

One of the first to fly was the hummingbird; the viper was the first to crawl. The first to sing was the grasshopper.

He had made the Earth completely covered in a lush jungle, so that there would be treeless fields, he created the locust. It went everywhere, sticking its tail in some places, where grass grew and the trees disappeared, and thus the plains were formed.

When they were ready, the partridge arrived and, singing happily, stayed there to live.

Then he invented the armadillo, which immediately began to dig the earth. The owl became the mistress of the darkness; that's why it comes out only at night and sleeps during the day.

Then many other animals came, and also the first men and women. Then, Ñamandu returned to the sky and left the other gods in charge of taking good care of everything.

Time passed; Some people had become very good, but others had become very bad: not everything was going well, so the gods decided it was best to make amends. But to avoid leaving things half-done, they produced a flood: the entire Earth was inundated. The good people were able to ascend to heaven with Ñamandu, but the bad ones were transformed into animals: frogs, fish, and other creatures.

Later, Ñamandu asked another of the gods, named Jakaira, to be in charge of rebuilding the earth, and he, in turn, delegated the task to his son, Pa-pa Mirí. Pa-pa Mirí worked hard. He made new plants, new animals; he kneaded the new earth and filled it with trees and grass. He made rivers and streams. But it seems that before he finished, his mother called him, and Pa-pa Mirí abandoned his work. And the Guaraní say that this is why there are mountains that are nothing more than piles of earth and stones left over from the God and that are of no use to the people.

Sigue cada semana en
EL CENTRAL Hispanic News
ESPECIAL CULTURAS DEL MUNDO,
by Mariana Ayón RV

Paraguay

Paraguay is one of the central South American countries, located between Bolivia and the two giants: Brazil and Argentina. It is a landlocked country, however, with ports on the Paraná River and the Paraguay River, which crosses the country from north to south, dividing it between east and west. The Iguazu Falls form part of the border between Brazil, Argentina, and Paraguay. It boasts large expanses of swamps, subtropical forests, and Chaco, natural expanses that encompass savannas and scrublands.

Human presence in Paraguay dates back to the Neolithic period, around 3,200 BC. During the pre-Columbian period, it was inhabited by indigenous peoples of the Tupi-Guarani and Mataco-Guaicurú groups. The arrival of the Spanish marked the beginning of Hispanic rule over this territory until the 19th century, when Paraguay achieved its independence in 1811, the third in Latin America to do so. The Paraguayan Constitution declares it a multicultural and bilingual country and establishes Spanish and Guaraní as its official languages. The latter is spoken by 87% of its inhabitants, and its oral and written use is regulated by the Guaraní Language Academy.

Recipe: Paraguayan Soup

Ingredients:

3 large onions
3 cups water
1 tablespoon coarse salt
3/4 cup cold pork fat
4 eggs
350 grams fresh cheese
650 grams corn flour
1 cup curdled or natural milk
1 heaping tablespoon cream (optional)

Preparation:

Finely chop the onion. Boil it with the water and salt for 10 minutes in a covered saucepan. Let it cool.

Whisk the fat. Add the eggs one by one, continuing to whisk. Add the crumbled cheese. Add the onion with the water in which it was boiled and gradually add the corn flour, alternating with the milk and cream. Mix gently. Pour into a large, greased and floured baking dish.

Bake in a hot oven (200°C) for approximately 1 hour.

Serve in small portions and place on the table.

ESPECIAL CULTURAS DEL MUNDO

Paraguay

Mito Guaraní sobre el origen de la tierra

En el principio de los tiempos estaba solo el Dios Creador, Ñamandu, que de a poco se había creado a sí mismo. No había ni árboles ni montañas, ni gente, nada. En su soledad, Ñamandu empezó a crear.

Primero el lenguaje de los hombres, las palabras.

Y entonces quiso que alguien más pudiera hablar y creó a otros dioses, cuatro parejas de dioses que a su vez iban a tener hijos también dioses.

Después, hizo que la punta del bastón que siempre llevaba en la mano empezara a engordar, más y más. De allí salió la Tierra, de a poquito. Para que la Tierra no se moviera, creó una palmera. Era una palmera que iba a durar para siempre y estaba justo en el medio de la Tierra.

Después creó otras cuatro en cada uno de los puntos cardinales. Y así, con esas cinco palmeras que iban a vivir siempre, sin secarse nunca, la Tierra quedó bien firme.

Al cielo lo dejó apoyado sobre cuatro columnas, cuatro postes de madera iguales a su bastón.

Fue entonces cuando hizo los primeros animales y las primeras plantas.

Uno de los primeros que voló por ahí fue el colibrí; la víbora fue la primera que se arrastró. La primera en cantar fue la cigarra.

Había hecho la Tierra toda cubierta de una selva frondosa, para que hubiera campos sin árboles creó la langosta, ella iba por todos lados, en algunos clavaba la cola en el suelo y allí crecía el pasto y desaparecían los árboles, así se formaron las llanuras.

Cuando estuvieron listas, llegó la perdiz, que cantando contenta se quedó a vivir ahí.

Después inventó el tatú, que se puso enseguida a escarbar la tierra. La lechuza quedó como dueña de la oscuridad; por eso, sale nada más que de noche y duerme de día.

Después vinieron otros muchos animales y también los primeros hombres y mujeres. Entonces, Ñamandu se volvió al cielo y les dejó encargado a los otros dioses que cuidaran bien de todo.

Pasó el tiempo; algunas personas se habían vuelto muy buenas, pero otras se habían vuelto muy malas: no todo andaba bien, así que los dioses decidieron que era mejor hacer arreglos. Pero para no dejar las cosas a medias, produjeron un diluvio: toda la Tierra se inundó. La gente buena pudo subir al cielo con Ñamandu pero los que eran malos se transformaron en animales: ranas, peces y otros bichos.

Después, Ñamandu le pidió a otro de los dioses, que se llamaba Jakaira, que se encargara de hacer de nuevo la tierra, éste a su vez delegó la tarea en su hijo Pa-pa Mirí. Pa-pa Mirí trabajó mucho. Hizo nuevas plantas, nuevos animales; fue amasando la tierra nueva y llenándola de árboles y pasto. Hizo ríos y arroyos. Pero parece que antes de que terminar lo llamó la madre, y Pa-pa Mirí abandonó su obra. Y dicen los Guaraníes que por eso hay montañas que no son sino montones de tierra y piedras que le sobraron al Dios y que a la gente no le sirven de nada.

Paraguay

Paraguay es uno de los países en el centro de suramerica que se encuentra entre Bolivia y los dos gigantes: Brasil y Argentina. Es un país sin colindancia al océano, no obstante, cuenta con puertos sobre el río Paraná y el río Paraguay que cruza de norte a sur dividiendo el país entre oriente y occidente. Las cataratas de Iguazú forman parte de los linderos entre Brasil, Argentina y Paraguay. Cuenta con grandes extensiones de pantanos, bosques subtropicales y chaco, extensiones de naturaleza que abarcan sabanas y matorrales.

La presencia humana en Paraguay se remonta hacia el Neolítico, que data de unos 3200 años antes de Cristo. Durante el período precolombino estuvo habitado por pueblos indígenas de los grupos tupí-guaraní y mataco-guaicurú. La llegada de los españoles marcó el inicio del dominio hispánico de este territorio hasta el siglo XIX, cuando en 1811 Paraguay consiguió su independencia, siendo el tercero de América Latina en lograrlo.

La Constitución paraguaya lo declara como un país multicultural y bilingüe, y establece como idiomas oficiales el español y guaraní. Esta última es hablada en el país por el 87 % de sus habitantes y su uso oral y escrito está regulado por la Academia de la Lengua Guaraní.

Receta: Sopa Paraguaya

Ingredientes

3 cebollas grandes
3 tazas de agua
1 cucharada de sal gruesa
3/4 taza de grasa de cerdo (fría)
4 huevos
350 grs. de queso fresco
650 grs. de harina de maíz
1 taza de leche cuajada o natural
1 cucharada colmada de nata de leche (optativo)

Preparación:

Cortar finamente la cebolla. Hacerla hervir con el agua y sal durante 10 minutos, en cacerola tapada. Dejar enfriar.

Batir la grasa. Agregar uno a uno los huevos, continuando el batido. Agregar el queso desmenuzado. Incorporar la cebolla con el agua en la cual se hirvió y poco a poco la harina de maíz, alternando con la leche y nata. Mezclar con suavidad. Verter sobre una asadera grande engrasada y enharinada.

Cocinar en horno caliente (200°) durante 1 hora, más o menos.

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